

REMARKS

The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment objected to the use of strikethrough characters in the Amendment submitted August 6, 2007. Specifically, the Notice indicated that the deletion of the term "via" from claims 1 and 14; the deletion of the term "layer" in claims 3, 4, 16, and 17; and the deletion of the term "a" in claim 14 are not easily perceived using strikethrough characters. Applicants disagree with the Notice. The deletions are easily perceived, which is supported by the Notice having identified the deletions in the first place.

Nevertheless, the forgoing amendment was filed to use double brackets instead of strikethrough characters. In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner's acceptance of the claim amendments. Should any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

It is believed that no fees are due with this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees with respect to this Amendment to deposit account number 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 27, 2007




Rene' A. Perezra, Reg. No. 45,800
MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
303.357.1637